



For Immediate Release

May 27, 2011

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George Runner Urges Californians to Honor Fallen Heroes

Board of Equalization Member Senator George Runner today urged Californians to take time this Memorial Day weekend to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

Runner said, "As flags are flown throughout the country to honor the valor and courage of the brave men and women who gave their lives defending our country, let us remember that the liberties we enjoy today came at a great price."

"In memory of our honored dead I invite Californians to take a moment this weekend to share with their family, friends and neighbors the importance of Memorial Day," added Runner.

Often viewed as the unofficial start of summer, Memorial Day has deep roots in American History.

Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day became a federally observed holiday in 1967 when the tradition of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers had spread nationwide. Unlike Veterans Day which honors living veterans, Memorial Day commemorates the men and women throughout the history of our country who died in battle paying the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and well being of all Americans.

Since Decoration Day was first observed in the 1860's, more than one million men and women have given their lives in sacrifice to our country. Flags are flown at half mast from dawn until noon to remember these brave souls. At noon the flags are raised to full mast by the living who continue to honor their memory.

Runner concluded, "Even this year brave Americans overseas continue to fight and die for our freedom. As these valiant soldiers are put to rest let us offer a prayer this Memorial Day in respect and gratitude for the rights and liberties we are blessed to have."

Elected in November 2010, Senator George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the Board of Equalization. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Runner.

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